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## General Comment

[Edited by Gilbert Campbell Scoggin, The University of Missouri.]

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Dr. Sereno Burton Clark is assistant professor of Latin at the University of Washington, at Seattle.

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Professor G. B. Colburn, of the Department of Latin, is president of the Philological Club at the University of Missouri.

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The new library of the University of Missouri was formally dedicated on January 6. Several appropriate addresses were delivered.

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Professor J. C. Egbert, of the Department of Latin, is director of the extension work and of the summer school at Columbia University.

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Professor H. A. Sanders, of the University of Michigan, is this year acting director of the School of Classical Studies in the American Academy in Rome.

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While digging trenches at Palaeopolis (probably the ancient Hephaestia) in Lemnos last October, French soldiers discovered a headless marble statue of Eros.

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In the *Journal of Philology*, XXXIV, No. 67, will be found two short notices of the life and work of the late Professor Ingram Bywater, by Messrs. C. Cannan and P. S. Allen.

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The University of Michigan is to have a new library. Work on the building, for which an appropriation of \$350,000 has been made, will begin early in the summer. The new structure will harmonize with the Hill Auditorium and the Natural Science Building and will be four stories high.

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Professor Charles Upson Clark, of Yale University, delivered a lecture in December at Smith College on "Roman Monuments in Southern France." Professor Clark has recently been appointed director of the American School of Classical Studies at Rome. He will assume his duties next October.

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Mr. Granville Barker, who has been so successful in his staging of Greek plays in this country, spoke in November at Harvard under the joint auspices of the classical and English departments. It will be recalled that last spring he staged in the Harvard stadium the *Trojan Women* and *Iphigenia in Tauris*.

Professor Charles Chandler, of the department of Latin of the University of Chicago, retired from active work in January. Professor Chandler came to the University at its opening in 1892 from Denison University where he had served as instructor and professor for seventeen years. He has been in active college work for forty years.

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Mr. Richard Norton, formerly director of the American School of Classical Studies at Rome, is at the head of the American Volunteer Motor-Ambulance Corps in France. At present about sixty cars are being operated and thousands of wounded men have been removed from the front to places of greater security and comfort. Both English and Americans have contributed generously to the work and the greatest difficulty experienced is the securing of skilled chauffeurs.

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*Mediaeval Spanish Allegory* is the title of a recent volume by Professor Chandler R. Post, of Harvard. During his Senior year, Mr. Post won the Charles Eliot Norton Fellowship in Greek Studies with his essay on *The Dramatic Art of Aeschylus*. After studying at the American School at Athens he returned to Harvard and for several years taught in the department of Romance languages. At present he is assistant professor of Greek and fine art.

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Stephen Phillips, the well-known English poet and playwright, died December 9. In his younger days he was for a short time a student at Queen's College, Cambridge, but soon joined a company of Shaksperian players. Many of his poetic dramas were acted on the stage with great success and they all contain passages of great beauty. *Herod* was his most successful play, but *Paolo and Francesca* was given widely in America. He treated classical themes in *Ulysses* and *Nero*.

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Mr. Arthur Christopher Benson, the eminent English essayist, has recently been elected master of Magdalen College, Cambridge, where for several years past he has been a resident Fellow. His charming book *From a College Window*, published several years ago, was followed by other pleasing works. Mr. Benson was formerly a master at Eton and is a son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury and a brother of the late Mgr. Robert Hugh Benson whose Life he has lately written.

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The Macmillan Company has announced a new volume by Mr. Walter Leaf, the distinguished Homeric scholar, entitled *Homer and History*. The book consists of lectures which Mr. Leaf had prepared to deliver at Northwestern University on the Norman Wait Harris Foundation. The sudden outbreak of the war forced Mr. Leaf to cancel his proposed trip to this country; but, with the consent of the Lecture Committee, the lectures are now published as belonging to the series.

Mr. W. C. Davidson of Brooklyn, New York, a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, has recently been appointed a senior demy at Magdalen College. He was for a time with the American Red Cross in France and Serbia, and on accepting his appointment will pursue investigation in typhoid infection. It is interesting to recall the fact that Thomas Linacre, one of the earliest Greek scholars at Oxford, was professor of medicine there; and Sir William Osler, the present Regius professor of medicine, is a worthy successor of Linacre and is a staunch defendant of classical training for physicians.

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Professor Albert Thumb, of the University of Strassburg, died on August 14. He was deeply learned in comparative grammar, and his thorough acquaintance with modern Greek in his investigations stood him in good stead. In his knowledge of historical Greek grammar he was unsurpassed and he was an eminent Sanskritist. Of his best-known works may be mentioned his *Handbuch des Sanskrit mit Texten und Glossar*; *Handbuch der neugriechischen Volkssprache*; *Die griechische Sprache im Zeitalter des Hellenismus*; and *Handbuch der griechischen Dialekte*. The fourth edition of Brugmann's *Griechische Grammatik* was edited with his revision in 1913.

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Members of the Classical Association will be interested to learn that our modern language cousins have organized an association similar to our own. As a result of a meeting held in Cleveland on December 29 it was decided to organize at once the Association of Modern Foreign Language Teachers of the Central West and South. Professor A. G. Canfield of Michigan was elected president, Professor C. H. Handschin of Miami was made secretary-treasurer, and an executive council was named, consisting of the president, secretary-treasurer, and A. Coleman, Chicago; Josephine Doniat, Carl Schurz High School, Chicago; A. R. Hohlfeld, Wisconsin; Herbert L. Marshall, Central High School, St. Louis. A provisional constitution was adopted and the final organization will take place at the first regular meeting, which will probably be held in Chicago in the spring. All those interested in the aims and organization of this body are invited to communicate with C. H. Handschin, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

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Delegates of the Associations of the Middle States and Maryland, of New York State, of New England, and of the Central West and South met at Cleveland December 30 last to confer on the advisability of establishing a journal of modern foreign language teaching, addressed to both secondary-school and college teachers, and having a national scope. It was decided to proceed at once to the organization of such a journal. Professor Bagster-Collins of Teachers College of Columbia University was chosen managing editor, and C. A. Busse of Hunter College and A. Coleman of Chicago were named as business managers. Associate editors named thus far are Professors

Deihl of the Wisconsin University High School, Nitze of Chicago, and Vos of Indiana. Other associate editors and the consulting editors are still to be chosen. German and Romance interests are to be equally represented on the editorial board.

The journal will be published in New York and Chicago, will appear eight times a year, and is to have from 32 to 48 pages. It will contain articles of a general and special nature addressed to teachers of modern foreign languages in American secondary schools and colleges, and should thus satisfy a need which no other one journal has as yet tried to fill.

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Sir John Rhys, master of Jesus College, Oxford, died December 17. He was a renowned Celtic scholar and had published many authoritative works in his chosen field. He was appointed professor of Celtic at Oxford in 1877 and in 1895 was made master of Jesus College, a favorite center for Welshmen. Both he and Whitley Stokes were early contributors to Kuhn's *Beiträge zur vergleichenden Sprachforschung*. While on the subject of Celtic studies it may not be amiss to refer to the present tendency to overemphasize Celtic influence in Latin literature. Mr. Garrod, in his beautiful *Oxford Book of Latin Verse*, is inclined to ascribe everything that is best in Latin poetry to the "Celtic spirit"; and the "Celtic Revival" in literature has spread its influence even to the grammarians. The old view of a Greco-Italic group of languages is now out of fashion and the Italo-Celtic has usurped its place. The French scholar Meillet goes so far as to arrange the Indo-European tongues under seven heads (instead of the usual eight), combining Celtic and Italic. So far as I am aware, Hirt is the only authority to acknowledge grave doubts on the point. As a matter of fact, the whole question deserves thorough restudy; for as Hirt says (*Handbuch der griech. Laut- und Formenlehre*, 2d ed., p. 27), "so muss man feststellen dass dem Griechischen von allen Sprachen keine so nahe steht wie die Italische." In any case the Italo-Celtic theory is not so modern as many suppose, but will be found indicated in the *Stammbaum* of August Schleicher.

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The Panama-Pacific Historical Congress met at the University of California, July 22, 1915. Mr. J. R. Sutton, vice-principal of the Oakland High School, in a paper dealing with the history requirement in the schools, emphasized the bearing of ancient history upon present-day problems. "The controversy in Athens over the question of building a strong navy, the way it was decided, and the final outcome, would doubtless be of value in our present controversy over the same question. Rome's Monroe Doctrine over Sicily and later over the rest of the Mediterranean world, and its final outcome, might give us some hints as to the importance of our own Monroe Doctrine. If the American people had had the patience to learn what ancient and mediaeval history has to teach respecting slavery and its final disappearance, our own

great Civil War might have been avoided. Rome has much to teach us, too, respecting the struggle between the classes that enjoy special privileges and those that do not. . . . The Roman Empire is the central point in the history of the world; for the attainments, the advances toward civilization of all peoples, are appropriated by Rome and passed on to succeeding generations. From Rome as a starting-point therefore the history of the modern world begins, so that to the student of history all roads lead to Rome figuratively, as they once did actually. It follows that any course in European history that does not take time to impress upon the minds of the pupils the tremendous significance of Rome is fundamentally wrong." The paper has been issued in pamphlet form by Allyn & Bacon.

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In the *American Schoolmaster*, a magazine published by the Michigan State Normal School, there is reprinted for October, 1915, a paper by Professor Benjamin L. D'Ooge on "The First Year of Latin—What and How." This paper was read before the Classical Section of the Indiana State Teachers' Association, at Indianapolis, October, 1914. Professor D'Ooge shows how the theory of formal discipline alone was carried too far in most of the older beginning books, whereas the modern books have often gone too far in the direction of variety and human interest. He insists that the student should early be introduced to easy connected narrative and be led to a sense of mastery over constructions and acquired vocabulary. As usual, the proper course will lie between the extremes of formal discipline and human interest; but it is evident that the tendency nowadays is to neglect the memory which is best developed in early youth. The boy who learned accurately the list of 26 prepositions that are followed by the accusative (and thus it used to stand in our old grammars for beginners: *ad*, *adversus* or *adversum*, *ante*, *apud*, *circa* or *circum*, *circiter*, *cis* or *citra*, *contra*, *erga*, *extra*, *infra*, *inter*, *intra*, *juxta*, *ob*, *penes*, *per*, *pone*, *post*, *praeter*, *prope*, *propter*, *secundum*, *supra*, *trans*, *ultra*) we may be sure was accurate in many things of less difficulty. Of Mark Pattison the story is often told that he was coaching an undergraduate in the *Ethics*. The student was unable to follow the rigid reasoning of Aristotle but insisted that it be clearly explained to him. Thereupon Pattison impatiently exclaimed: "Never mind understanding it, only get it up!"

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The University of Manchester has issued under the direction of Charles W. E. Leigh, librarian of the university, a *Catalogue of the Christie Collection*. R. C. Christie was long professor of history, political economy, and jurisprudence at Owens College, which was later incorporated in the University of Manchester. It was largely through his efforts that the library of Freeman was secured for Manchester in 1892. Christie was an Oxford man, deeply interested in the history of scholarship, and the volumes catalogued were collected "with a view of illustrating and enabling its owner to study the Renais-

sance, and especially the Classical Renaissance of Italy and France." There are rich collections for the study of the lives and influence of particular scholars and specially rich material for the study of the history of Greek scholarship. Christie's own *Étienne Dolet, the Martyr of the Renaissance* is the standard Life of that unfortunate scholar-printer. The books include a long list of *principes* issued by Calliergi, Thierry Martens, Simon de Colines, Sweynheim and Pannartz, Aldus, and others. Horace, the first Latin classic that Christie read with pleasure, is represented by 798 volumes of editions, translations, and commentaries. There are 37 Greek *incunabula* and 173 Latin, besides numerous manuscripts. There are fine examples of bindings by Roger Payne, Charles Lewis, Bedford, Rivière, Morrell, Zaehnsdorf, Roger de Coverley, Bauzonnet, and Bozérien. The city of Manchester may well be proud of two such collections as the Christie Collection and the superb collection of Earl Spencer now housed in the John Rylands Library. But of this last, another time.

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In the death of Benjamin Pitts Gentry the cause of the classics in Missouri has lost one of its warmest friends and staunchest supporters. Perhaps no one in the state has remained for so long a time in one institution as a teacher of Latin, and few have been privileged to teach so large a number of students. He had doubtless sent out more students who became teachers than any other man in the state.

Professor Gentry became a member of the faculty of the State Normal School at Kirksville in 1882, and was soon after made head of the Department of Latin, a position which he filled to the day of his death, November 7, 1915.

He seldom missed the meetings of the State Teachers' Association, and it was while attending the annual meeting of this body in Kansas City that he was thrown from the steps of a street car and fatally injured.

All over this state and scattered through all the states are those who have studied under Professor Gentry and who mourn his death as that of a personal friend. The lessons he taught in courtesy and kindness, in amiability, and in practical ethics will remain fixed long after declensions and conjugations are forgotten.

More than once Professor Gentry expressed the dread that he might some time become incapacitated for the classroom through age, but he remained strong and vigorous to the end, and seemed capable of another ten years of service.

The loss of one who so faithfully labored in the classical field for a third of a century is deeply mourned by the present student body and faculty, and by the thousands who have been students in the past.